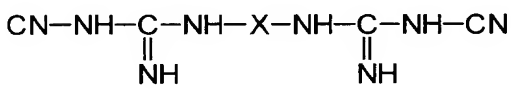
5. (Amended) An antimicrobial polymer according to claim 1 wherein the chromophoric marker is covalently bound to the antimicrobial polymer as a pendant group or a terminal group on the polymer chain, or as an in-chain group in the polymer chain.

#2

6. (Amended) An antimicrobial polymer according to claim 1 wherein the chromophoric marker is present as a terminal or pendant group on the polymer chain and the antimicrobial polymer to which the chromophoric marker is bound is an antimicrobial poly(quaternary ammonium) compound, a polymeric guanide or a polymeric biguanide.

#3

10. (Amended) An antimicrobial polymer according to claim 1 obtainable by co-polymerising a chromophoric marker, a bisdicyandiamide having the formula:



and a diamine H_2N-Y-NH_2, wherein X and Y are as defined in claim 8.

#4

12. (Amended) An antimicrobial polymer according to claim 1 wherein the covalent bond between the chromophoric marker and polymer is formed by means of one or more reactive functional group on the chromophoric marker which is capable of forming a covalent bond with the polymer and/or monomer precursors used to make the polymer.

18. (Amended) A composition comprising antimicrobial polymers at least one of which is an antimicrobial polymer according to claim 1.

19. (Amended) A composition comprising a carrier and an antimicrobial polymer according to claim 1 or a composition according to claim 18.

#5

20. (Amended) A method for inhibiting microbiological growth on, or in, a medium which comprises treating the medium with an antimicrobial polymer according to claim 1 or a composition according to claim 18.

21. (Amended) A method for detecting an antimicrobial polymer according to claim 1 on or in a medium comprising the steps:

(a) subjecting a sample of the medium containing an antimicrobial polymer to a detection means whereby the presence of the chromophoric marker in the antimicrobial polymer generates a detection signal; and optionally

(b) calculating the concentration of the antimicrobial polymer from the detection signal generated in step (a).

23. (Amended) A method for maintaining the concentration of an antimicrobial polymer according to claim 1 in a medium at or above a target concentration comprising the steps:

(a) measuring the concentration of the antimicrobial polymer in the medium using the method according to claim 21;

(b) comparing the measured concentration with the target concentration; and

(c) adding a sufficient quantity of further antimicrobial polymer to the medium to maintain the concentration of the antimicrobial polymer in the medium at or above the target concentration.

Please refer to the attached Appendix for changes made to the above claims.